



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

VMLRP Shortage ID Code: NM151

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Otero County, Chaves County, Lincoln County
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
(or Location of Position if Type III): 33.3701, -105.2265 At the Jct of US70 and SR 368 at Tinnie, NM
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☐ High Priority ☒ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☒ Other: Show animals

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the importance and objectives of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objective for food animal veterinarians in Lincoln, Chaves and Otero counties is to provide veterinary services to beef, dairy and small ruminant operations. Many operations in this area are family owned and operated and there are also several large cow/calf, breeding bull and sheep operations in the area. These three large, rural counties cover ~17,500 square miles with an average of 8.2 persons per square mile. The average median household income for these counties is \$40,466. Per 2007 NASS data there are approximately 227,883 cattle (dairy/beef) and 35,423 sheep, 2,100 goats, 2,664 poultry (layers) and 224 hogs/pigs in this area;. This area has limited access to food animal veterinarians and currently there are veterinarians that come from out-of-state to provide needed services. With the large concentration of dairy farms and cattle ranches this rural area, there will always be a need for additional food animal veterinarians. A Type II Shortage Veterinarian would spend at least 30% of their time in herd health management, assisting producers in management decisions, performing disease surveillance and regulatory duties.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The activities of a food animal veterinarian in this area would include herd health management, basic health care, disease surveillance for beef cattle, dairy cattle and small ruminants, and performance USDA Accredited Veterinarian regulatory duties, which include issuing certificates for interstate and international livestock movement, performing Brucellosis calfhood vaccinations, tuberculosis and brucellosis testing, development of disease management plans, cleaning/disinfection plans and the recognition of signs of foreign animal diseases. Disease surveillance would include testing and monitoring for tuberculosis, Brucellosis, bovine trichomoniasis, bovine viral diarrhea, scrapie, and pseudorabies, as well as the diseases and other health issues affecting the equine populations associated with food animal livestock. The veterinarian filling this shortage will need to be well-versed in border-health issues and local herd health issues resulting from the influx of feral hogs in the area. The veterinarian will provide quality veterinary care to livestock show and club animals. They will also serve ranchers who lease land and livestock operations on Native American land holdings. Ideally, a veterinarian filling this shortage would eventually take over management of a food animal practice from a in the area nearing retirement.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The primary livestock practice serving these three counties recruited associates on five previous occasions; however, retention of associates was poor due to lower salaries for rural areas, cost of living/loan repayment, and long hours associated with livestock work. The burden of recruiting and retaining food animal practitioners in the area falls on the shoulders of existing practitioners, who find it challenging to attract veterinarians away from the higher salaries and perceived better quality of life in metropolitan areas. VMLRP support increases the likelihood of the associate being able to pay off loans and purchase the practice.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

This contiguous three-county area has unique animal health and food supply issues that could significantly impact livestock production if the position is not secured or retained. Steers from Mexico being moved to other states in the U.S. are fed and kept in these three NM counties; trade could be impacted without a veterinarian available to inspect these animals and ensure their health before interstate transport. Cattle produced in the area are sold and transported out of the state; this aspect of the economy of the counties may be impacted if a veterinarian is not available to examine animals and prepare health certificates to ensure the health of the animals before travel. Without an appropriate level of veterinary presence in this area, livestock health and the economy of the state could be impacted if emergency animal disease situations is not recognized, reported or diagnosed in a timely fashion, which could have devastating impacts on trade for the state and the nation. The drought in the state has decreased the number of livestock in the short-term; however, a veterinary presence must be essential and a veterinarian must be able to weather the fluctuations in livestock work related to drought. Securing a veterinarian through VMLRP will allow for stability and continuity of care for livestock in the area.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
- ☒ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Ellen Mary Wilson, D.V.M.

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

Email: Ellen.wilson@state.nm.us

Telephone Number: 505-841-6161
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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